

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9350

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

JCS

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CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN

USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE

USDELMC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 4794

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR GR

SUBJECT: STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENT (SOFA) DISCUSSIONS

REF: ATHENS 4554

1. AT GREEK REQUEST (REFTEL A), CDR GRUNAWALT AND MR PUGH MET INFORMALLY ON 27 JUN WITH FONMIN LEGAL ADVISORS ECONOMIDES AND MACHERITSAS TO DISCUSS THE RESPECTIVE PROGRESS OF THE TWO GOVTS IN PREPARING FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OF SOFA ISSUES. CDR GRUNAWALT STATED THAT THE US SIDE WOULD BE PREPARED TO RESUME SOFA NEGOTIATIONS ON 15 AUGUST. ECONOMIDES NOTED THAT AUGUST WAS VACATION MONTH IN GREECE, WHEREUPON IT WAS AGREED TO RESUME THE SOFA TALKS IN ATHENS ON 15 SEPTEMBER.

2. CDR GRUNAWALT AND MR ECONOMIDES OUTLINED THE STATUS OF THE WORK BEING DONE WITHIN THE TWO GOVTS AND DETERMINED THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD BE PREPARED TO TABLE TEXTS
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OF A DRAFT SOFA WHEN NEGOTIATIONS COMMENCED IN SEPTEMBER. IN

RESPONSE TO A QUERY FROM ECONOMIDES REGARDING ANY PARTICULAR PROBLEMS THE US SIDE MIGHT HAVE ENCOUNTERED IN ITS WORK, THE US PARTICIPANTS NOTED THAT THE RECENT FAILURE OF LOCAL OFFICIALS IN CRETE TO ABIDE BY EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS INCREASED THE DIFFICULTY OF THE TASK OF FORMULATING US POSITIONS. THE TWO SIDES THEN AGREED ON THE ESSENTIALITY OF STRICT ADHERENCE TO EXISTING SOFA ARRANGEMENTS UNTIL A NEW SOFA COULD BE AGREED.
KUBISCH

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION COORDINATED WITH S/S-O - MR. MACK.

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